

Appl. No. 09/394,660

Responsive to the Office Action Dated January 17, 2003

1.-3.(CANCELED)

4.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ticket dispenser for containing and dispensing a plurality of tickets in which each ticket is joined to an adjacent ticket by a line of weakness to form a strip of tickets, the ticket dispenser comprising:

a bottom support structure having a front edge and a rear edge;

a front cover pivotally connected proximate to the front edge of the bottom support structure by a front hinge;

a rear cover pivotally connected proximate to the rear edge of the bottom support structure by a rear hinge;

wherein the front and rear covers are pivotal about the front hinge and rear hinge, respectively, toward and away from a closed configuration;

wherein the front and rear covers mate together in the closed configuration to define an enclosed volume in the ticket dispenser to hold the plurality of tickets; and

a powered drive module in the enclosed volume, the powered drive module receiving the tickets for dispensing from the ticket dispenser;

A ticket dispenser as in Claim 33 in which said wherein the drive module includes a separator mechanism for separating one or more of said tickets from one of said strips before dispensing them.

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5.(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A ticket dispenser as in Claim 33 in which said drive module comprises:

at least one inlet opening for admitting plural parallel ticket strips therein;
at least one outlet opening for issuing tickets from one of said strips;
a drive motor coupled to a drive shaft;
a plurality of input drive rollers rotatably mounted on a common shaft and;
transmission means for selectively coupling said input drive rollers to said drive shaft for selectively feeding tickets in one of said strips through said module and out through said outlet opening.

6.(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A ticket dispenser as in Claim 33 in which said front cover includes a portion that is at least partially transparent, and said front cover includes a curved portion.

7.-9.(CANCELED)

10.(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A ticket dispensing installation, comprising a ticket dispenser which has a bottom wall, a pair of side walls, a front cover hinged adjacent to said bottom wall, a rear cover hinged adjacent to said bottom, said bottom wall, said side walls, said front cover and said rear cover defining an enclosed volume to contain a plurality of arrays of tickets in strips with individual tickets being delineated from one

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another by lines of weakness, a drive module in said ticket dispenser, said drive module being positioned adjacent said front cover in a location to receive strips of tickets from said arrays, said drive module containing drive means for dispensing a predetermined number of tickets from a selected one of said arrays, a portion of said front cover being at least partially transparent to permit viewing of said ticket strips, a check-out counter having a first position at which the customer normally is located and a second position at which a store clerk normally is located, said ticket dispenser being mounted on said checkout counter with the front cover facing said first position at said check-out counter when purchases are being checked-out, and said rear cover facing said second position at said check-out counter.

11.-12.(CANCELED)

13.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ticket dispensing installation, comprising a ticket dispenser which has a bottom wall, a pair of side walls, a front cover hinged adjacent to said bottom wall, a rear cover hinged adjacent to said bottom, said bottom wall, said side walls, said front cover and said rear cover defining an enclosed volume to contain a plurality of arrays of tickets in strips with individual tickets being delineated from one another by lines of weakness, a drive module in said ticket dispenser, said drive module being positioned adjacent said front cover in a location to receive strips of tickets from said arrays, said drive module containing drive means for dispensing a

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(1) predetermined number of tickets from a selected one of said arrays, a portion of said front cover being at least partially transparent to permit viewing of said ticket strips, a check-out counter having a first position at which the customer normally is located and a second position at which a store clerk normally is located, said ticket dispenser being mounted on said checkout counter with the front cover facing said first position at said check-out counter when purchases are being checked-out, and said rear cover facing said second position at said check-out counter. A dispensing installation as in Claim 10 in which said drive module includes a helical separator member spanning a plurality of different channels of said to separate at least one ticket from any of said ticket strips, said drive module including electronic control means for inputting ticket selection and ticket quantity information into said drive module to cause said dispenser to dispense a selected number of tickets.

14.(ORIGINAL) A dispensing installation as in Claim 13 in which said electronic control means is selected from the group consisting of a point-of-sale terminal; a computer; and an on-line lottery terminal.

15.-32. (CANCELED)

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33.(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A ticket dispenser for containing and dispensing a plurality of tickets in which each ticket is joined to an adjacent ticket by a line of weakness to form a strip of tickets, the ticket dispenser comprising:

a bottom support structure having a front edge and a rear edge;

4 a front cover pivotally connected proximate to the front edge of the bottom support structure by a front hinge;

a rear cover pivotally connected proximate to the rear edge of the bottom support structure by a rear hinge;

wherein the front and rear covers are pivotal about the front hinge and rear hinge, respectively, toward and away from a closed configuration;

wherein the front and rear covers mate together in the closed configuration to define an enclosed volume in the ticket dispenser to hold the plurality of tickets; and

a powered drive module in the enclosed volume, the powered drive module receiving the tickets for dispensing from the ticket dispenser.

34.(PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The ticket dispenser of claim 33 wherein one of the front and rear covers includes a portion having a substantially flat upper surface.

35.-36.(CANCELED)

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37.(PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The dispensing installation of claim 10 wherein one of the front and rear covers includes a portion having a substantially flat upper surface.

38.-39.(CANCELED)

40.(NEW) A ticket dispenser as in Claim 4 in which said front cover includes a portion that is at least partially transparent, and said front cover includes a curved portion.

41.(NEW) The ticket dispenser of claim 4 wherein one of the front and rear covers includes a portion having a substantially flat upper surface.

42.(NEW) A ticket dispenser as in claim 4 in which said drive module comprises:

- at least one inlet opening for admitting plural parallel ticket strips therein;
- at least one outlet opening for issuing tickets from one of said strips;
- a drive motor coupled to a drive shaft;
- a plurality of input drive rollers rotatably mounted on a common shaft and;
- transmission means for selectively coupling said input drive rollers to said drive shaft for selectively feeding tickets in one of said strips through said module and out through said outlet opening.

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43.(NEW) The dispensing installation of claim 13 wherein one of the front and rear covers includes a portion having a substantially flat upper surface.

44.(NEW) The dispensing installation of claim 10 wherein said rear cover includes a dispensing slot through which the tickets exit the ticket dispenser.

45.(NEW) The dispensing installation of claim 44 wherein the dispensing slot is oriented generally parallel to a juncture of the rear cover and the bottom wall.

46.(NEW) The ticket dispenser of claim 33 wherein the rear cover includes a dispensing slot through which the tickets exit the ticket dispenser.

47.(NEW) The ticket dispenser of claim 46 wherein the dispensing slot is oriented generally parallel to the rear hinge.